

CLOSING RATES.
Yesterday of cotton and gold: Liverpool cotton, 10.15; New Orleans cotton, 10.15; New York cotton, 10.15; New York gold, 101.

WEATHER INDICATIONS.
Wash. Dist., Office of the U. S. Army, Sunday, March 23, 1878, 10:00 A. M.
For Tennessee and the Ohio valley, warmer, clearer or partly cloudy weather, light south-easterly winds, and stationary or lower pressure.

OBSERVATIONS YESTERDAY.
Wash. Dist., Office of the U. S. Army, Sunday, March 23, 1878, 10:00 A. M.
Place of Observ. Bar. Ther. Wind. Clouds.
Delaware... 30.00 67 S. E. (gentle) Clear.
Louisville... 30.00 67 S. E. (gentle) Clear.
Memphis... 30.00 67 S. W. (gentle) Cloudy.
New Orleans... 30.00 67 S. W. (gentle) Clear.
New York... 30.00 67 S. W. (gentle) Clear.
Portland... 30.00 67 S. W. (gentle) Clear.
Vicksburg... 30.00 67 S. W. (gentle) Clear.

THE MEETING LAST NIGHT.

As we were sure would be the case, the citizens of Memphis last night honored the call upon them to meet and consider the subject of a transcontinental railroad by a large attendance and by a display of deep interest in the subject. That the railroad contemplated is required by just policy, by commercial considerations, and as a proper recognition of the rights and claims of a portion of the Union toward which the favors of the national government have not been extended in the same proportion as to other parts of the country, was made clearly manifest by the various speakers. Colonel Keller, with precision and in well-chosen words, explained the position of the question in congress, and distinctly pointed out that if Memphis would have her claims recognized, she must present them strongly, earnestly and perseveringly. Judge Clapp, with a pleasing fluency and interest of narrative that delighted his audience, gave a history of the proposition for a transcontinental road from its inception, and showed how thoroughly it was recognized, long before the war and up to the time of the agitation that preceded it, that Memphis, in virtue of its geographical position on the east bank of the Mississippi river and on the thirty-fifth degree of latitude, was the place designated, in the very nature of things, as the starting point of the road. He also explained the movements and schemes by which it was sought to deprive Memphis and the south of their just due, in order that, under the name of a southern railroad, St. Louis and Philadelphia might rob the south of its commerce, and transfer its trade, as a rich spoil, to their own lap. In warm and spirited language Judge Brown showed how justly the south is entitled to the proposed road, and expressed a hope we ardently wish may be gratified, that this meeting may be the beginning of a series of meetings to be held throughout the districts concerned, so that congress and the Union may be fully informed of the passionate desire of the people for the road, and of their determination to secure it, and to resist all tricks, schemes, compromises and jobs, by which the benefit of this portion of the country claims shall be transferred, under fraudulent pretenses, to corporations having no care for our interests, no thought but for their own profit. There was no sectionalism advocated by the speakers, nothing aggressive against other cities, nothing factions, calculated to obstruct the efforts making in Washington to have the measure made law. The cry was—first, the transcontinental railroad; next, Memphis the starting point!

THE J. W. GAFF SUNK.

In the Ohio River, the Water Six Feet above her Hurricane Deck—No Lives Lost.

TELEGRAPHIC BREVITY.

A dispatch from St. Paul confirms the rumors of the Indian confederacy. Unparalleled distress from famine is reported in the northern provinces of China. The suspicions of the poisoning of Judge Leachman in Havana are not credited in New Orleans.

The subscriptions to the four per cent. bonds amounted to one hundred and sixty thousand dollars.

A hotel and several adjoining stores at Melbourne, Ontario, were burned yesterday.

Thomas A. Scott heads the ticket agreed upon at Philadelphia yesterday for directors of the Pennsylvania railway company.

It is rumored that the British fleet is to quit the Sea of Marousa immediately.

The Rhode Island Democratic Convention has nominated J. B. Barnaby for governor and Isaac Lawrence for lieutenant-governor.

Five persons were killed, and seven others more or less injured, by the explosion of a mill boiler, at Richmond, Virginia, yesterday.

An unfounded rumor was current in St. Petersburg, yesterday, that a revolution had broken out in Roumania, and Prince Charles had fled.

Negotiations between Holab Pasha and the Greek insurgents have ended, Holab refusing to recognize the provisional government of Thessaly.

The North German Gazette says it is evident that Russia regards war with England as inevitable, and knows she was never better able to wage it than now.

A number of failures were reported yesterday, including the National bank, at Hartford, the Bank of Commerce, at Elmira, and Jarvis, Lord & Co., of Rochester—all in New York.

In Washington, Thursday night, the colored men interested in the colony of their race in the west took measures to promote their own, and to prevent the migration of emigration in progress in the southern States.

The Farmers' tobacco warehouse, Hutchings, Thomas & Co., proprietors, the factories of Keen & Keen, L. H. Stovall & Co., R. J. Jones, Emory & Reed, J. T. J. Keen and Arnold & Weemple, the African Baptist church, six cheap tenement houses, and two store houses were destroyed by fire at Danville, Virginia, yesterday.

Other buildings were more or less damaged. Half a million pounds of tea tobacco and fifty thousand pounds of manufactured were lost. Total loss, eighty thousand dollars; insurance, fifty thousand.

OUR CAPITAL LETTER.

A Rigid Overhauling of the Postoffice Department with a View to the Correction of the Many Abuses, Principally in Letting Mail Contracts.

The New Pension Bill, Appropriating \$20,246,574—Reorganizing and Cutting Down the Number of Pension Agencies, a Saving of \$200,000 Annually to the Fund.

Hon. Casey Young's Heroic Fight for the Improvement of the Mississippi River—His Just Rebuke to the Committee on Appropriations Well-Timed and Appropriate.

Special Correspondence of the Appeal.

Washington, March 22.—The postoffice department is being very thoroughly overhauled, with a view to the correction of many abuses. One of these is the awarding of contracts at an expense far beyond any benefit derived by the people or the government—was abolished yesterday by a bill introduced by Mr. Singmaster, of Mississippi. Hereafter, contractors will have to apply to the department for the right to contract, and will be furnished in pamphlet form. An important amendment to this bill, offered by Mr. Hale, of Maine, was also adopted. It provides that no bidder shall be allowed to contract, and in its coming to the knowledge of the postmaster-general that a contract has been made, it shall be void, and the bidder shall be liable to a fine of \$1000. The bill also provides that the postmaster-general shall be authorized to suspend any contractor who is guilty of fraud or other offense, and to revoke his contract.

A NEW PENSION BILL.
Reported from the house committee on appropriations, and which appropriates twenty million two hundred and eighty-six thousand five hundred and seventy-four dollars, contains provisions for the reorganization of the pension system, and for the cutting down of the number of pension agencies. The bill proposes to abolish all pension agencies except those in the cities of New York, New Orleans, and St. Louis, and to place the pension business in the hands of the postoffice department. It also provides for the payment of pensions to the surviving families of soldiers and sailors who died in the late war, and for the payment of pensions to the aged and infirm soldiers and sailors who served in the late war.

CASEY YOUNG AND THE SECRET OF THE MISSISSIPPI.
When the deficiency appropriation bill was under discussion in committee of the whole, on Tuesday, Hon. Casey Young, moved the insertion of a paragraph providing twenty-five thousand dollars for continuing the survey of the Mississippi. Mr. Young, in explanation of the amendment, stated that at the second session of the forty-fourth congress an amendment was offered to a bill to provide for the improvement of the Mississippi river, which provided that the survey of the river should be continued for five years. Mr. Young said that he had introduced this amendment in order to secure the continuation of the survey, and that he had introduced it in order to secure the continuation of the survey, and that he had introduced it in order to secure the continuation of the survey.

THE ANDERSON CASE.
A call for a rehearing—Synopsis of Attorney-General Ogden's Application Filed at New Orleans Yesterday.

New Orleans, March 22.—Attorney-General Ogden has filed an application for a rehearing in the Anderson case. In the outcome, the court will have to decide whether or not the case should be reheard. The case is one of the most important cases that have come before the court in many years. It involves the question of the right of a citizen to sue for damages for the loss of property.

THE PACIFIC SINKING-FUND BILL RESUMED.
At the expiration of the morning hour the consideration of the Pacific sinking fund bill was resumed, and Senator M'Donald, a member of the judiciary committee, spoke in favor of the bill reported by the committee. He reviewed, at length, the Pacific railroad acts of 1862 and 1864, the bonds and lands received by the companies, and argued that the companies had not provided for the payment of the debt due the government. In conclusion, he argued that the bill should be passed.

HEADQUARTERS BLUFF LIGHT ARTILLERY.
All members of the Bluff Light Artillery, who are interested in the organization, are invited to meet at the headquarters of the organization, at the Bluff Light Artillery, on the 24th of March, at 2 o'clock.

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